PSY 281
ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisites: PSY 150
Corequisites: None

This course provides an examination of the various psychological disorders as well as theoretical, clinical, and experimental perspectives of the study of psychopathology. Emphasis is on terminology, classification, etiology, assessment, and treatment of the major disorders. Upon completion, students should be able to distinguish between normal and abnormal behavior patterns as well as demonstrate knowledge of etiology, symptoms, and therapeutic techniques. Course work includes projects. This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences. Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

a. Discuss and interpret a definition for abnormal behavior.
b. Provide a historical overview of abnormal psychology.
c. Interpret and explain research methodologies used for describing and explaining abnormal psychology.
d. Define and discuss classification, diagnosis, and assessment.
e. Identify and discuss assessment techniques.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

I. Abnormal behavior
   A. Definition of abnormality
   B. Epidemiology of abnormality
      1) Incidence
      2) Prevalence

II. Historical perspective
   A. The Ancient Greeks
   B. The Middle Ages
   C. The Reform Movement

III. Theoretical and research perspectives
   A. Research methods
   B. Biological perspective
   C. Psychoanalytic perspective
D. Behavioral perspective
E. Cognitive perspective
F. Humanistic/existential perspective

IV. Identification and classification of abnormal behavior
A. Assessment
B. Diagnosis

V. Stress
A. Vulnerability to access
B. Coping methods
C. Prevention and treatment of stress-related disorders

VI. Psychology of health and disease
A. Psychophysiological disorders
B. Somatoform disorders
C. Treatment alternatives

VII. Anxiety based disorders
A. Panic disorder
B. Generalized anxiety disorder
C. Phobia
D. Obsessive-compulsive disorder
E. Post-trauma stress disorder
F. Etiologism
G. Treatment

VIII. Dissociative disorders
A. Dissociative fugue
B. Dissociative identity disorder
C. Depersonalization disorder
D. Etiologies
E. Treatment

IX. Mood disorders
A. Depression and depressive disorder
B. Bipolar disorder
C. Etiologies
D. Treatment

X. Personality disorders
A. Classification of disorders
B. Behavioral manifestations
   1) Eccentric behaviors
   2) Erratic/dramatic behaviors
   3) Anxious behaviors
C. Etiologies
D. Treatment
XI. Sexual disorders
   A. Variations
   B. Dysfunctions
   C. Etiologies
   D. Treatment

XII. Schizophrenia
   A. Symptoms
   B. Types
   C. Etiologies
   D. Treatment

XIII. Substance related disorders
   A. Alcoholism
   B. Other drugs
   C. Etiologies
   D. Treatment

XIV. Disorders of childhood and adolescence
   A. Autism
   B. Mental retardation
   C. Learning disabilities
   D. Disruptive disorders
   E. Emotional disorders
   F. Eating disorders
   G. Etiologies
   H. Treatment

XV. Organic disorders
   A. Delirium
   B. Dementia’s
   C. Etiologies
   D. Treatment

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:
To be selected by instructor.

STATEMENT OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 919-536-7207, ext. 1413 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1209.